



International
Women's
Association

DECEMBER 2000



The Board

and

Executive Committee

Wish All IWA Members

and their Families

A Merry CHRISTMAS

&

HAPPY

NEW YEAR



IWA NEWSLETTER

Vol. XV No. 7
CHENNAI

DECEMBER 2000

MONTH AT A GLANCE

Friday	1st December	Board Meeting Executive Meeting	9.45 a.m. 11.00 a.m.
Tuesday	5th December	Book Discussion "The Phenomenon of Harry Potter"	10.15 a.m.
Friday	8th December	Philosophy & Religion History, Culture & Tours Film : "KUNDUN"	10.15 a.m.
Tuesday	12th December	History, Culture & Tours Music & Performing Arts Philosophy & Religion The IWA Christmas Brunch	10.00 a.m.
Friday	15th December	Music & Performing Arts Morning S(i)TAR	10.15 a.m.

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

The festive season is here again with Christmas and New Year ahead. Your Activity Chairpersons are adding the final touches to give all of us an enjoyable morning of fun and music. As in the past, we are trying to raise some money for donating to a charitable organisation and we have come up with a novel idea – Bring and Buy – this year. All of us are good at cooking or baking a particular sweet or savoury and we would like you to contribute the same, which can be sold at our Christmas Celebration. The details of packing and delivering are given in the blurb for the Christmas Brunch.

The trip to Hampi, Aihole, Pattadakal and Badami was very enjoyable and we thank Aruna and Visalakshi for the excellent arrangements. We were a happy group of 18 ladies who became closer with the adventures of each passing day. You will find inside an amusing and descriptive passage about the trip written by Megan Utley.

December is a short month in the IWA Calendar with the all-consuming excitement of Christmas and the approaching holidays. We wish all our Members and their families all the best for the season and **HAPPY CHRISTMAS**.

We are still awaiting intimation of changes in door numbers and telephone numbers from our Members to bring out a new Telephone Directory. Please inform us by January 31, 2001.

Until we meet in January 2001 !

**JAVANTHI PRABHAKARAN
EIRA DOSHI**

BOARD MEETING

Friday, 1st December, 9.45 a.m.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

Friday, 1st December, 11 a.m.

Both meetings at:
Kamala Muthiah's
"Bedford House"
No.5, Raja Annamalai Road
Purasawalkam
Chennai 600 084



Tuesday, 5th December 2000 at 10.15 a.m.

At : The Adyar Boat Club
Boat Club Road
3rd Avenue
R.A. Puram
Chennai 600 028

"THE PHENOMENON OF HARRY POTTER"

This month's discussion will be led by Mr. Jaspar Utey from the British Council in Madras. Jasper is well known for his own special sense of humour and we are guaranteed some interesting insights into why this book has become a modern-day classic.

Just in case there is anyone who hasn't heard of Harry Potter; he is a boy wizard being brought up by a cruel uncle and aunt. He escapes from them, having been summoned with a message sent by an owl courier to go to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry (a boarding school for trainee witches and wizards).

VIDYA SINGH

INGRID CHARLTON BRIGGS

We would like to thank our sponsors Lily Swami, Mridula Srinivasan, Lalitha Zachariah and Sue Williams for co-hosting the December meeting.

Friday, 8th December, 2000 - 10:15am

At: The Russian Cultural Centre
27 Kasturi Ranga Road
Alwarpet
Chennai 600018



Film: "KUNDUN"

"Kundun" which means "presence" is the story of Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet, following his divine recognition when he was just two-and-a-half years old, up to 1959, when Tibet was invaded by the Chinese army and he was forced into exile in India. He has been living in Dharamsala ever since. Told through the young eyes of his Holiness, "Kundun" charts his extraordinary growth from a giggling child into a figure who raises the worlds consciousness about the Buddhist society of the spirit, the plight of Tibet and the sufferings endured by his people. Although Director Martin Scorsece made this movie in Morocco, it contains glimpses of Tibet that have not even been seen by its own people. This film is a moving experience for everyone. Movie starts promptly at 10:30 and running time is 2hrs and 45 min. No guests please.

LALITHA KRISHNAN
SEEMA SAIT

VISALAKSHI RAMASWAMY
ARUNA VIJAYKUMAR

Please warn in to Seema Sait Tel : 8242244 / 8261018 before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m., as the auditorium is not very large.



OUR CONDOLENCES TO:

- Beena Ram Mohan on the demise of her mother-in-law.

THE IWA CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Tuesday, 12th December 2000 - 10.00 a.m.

At: Hotel Radisson
GST Road
St. Thomas Mount
Chennai

A morning of songs, carols, games and gifts has been planned to celebrate Christmas the IWA way. We will also have a **Bring & Buy Stall** for the culinary delights to be provided by our Members. There will also be a draw for prizes on your entry tickets.

Donation : Rs.200/- per head

Programme : 10 - 11 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship
11 a.m. Entertainment, carols and games
12 Noon Brunch

Bring & Buy : Members are requested to bring homemade cakes, cookies, snacks, sweets, jam and pickles. The food items should be packed and sealed in transparent bags or containers convenient for sale. Please come with a rough estimate of the cost of each package.

All items to be brought on 12-12-2000 before 10 a.m. or delivered to the following on the previous day at their residence.

Kusum Chadda Ph: 825 4217 / 823 3751

Fazeela Nurdeen Ph: 626 0674 / 621 6561

Eira Doshi Ph: 491 1126

Sushi Goklaney Ph: 435 3714

Come and enjoy the spirit of Christmas by giving and receiving. We look forward to your generous offerings.

VISALAKSHI RAMASWAMY

GITA CHANDRASEKARAN

LALITHA KRISHNAN

ARUNA VIJAYAKUMAR

ANN MORADIAN

SEEMA SAIT

We thank Bela Khaleeli for co-sponsoring the November meeting of Cooking Swapshop.

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

Friday, 15th December 2000 - 10.15 a.m.

At : Kumararaja Muthiah Auditorium
MRC Nagar, Chennai 600 028
(coming from Marina Beach, turn left after the Ayyapan Temple -
Last gate on the right after Chettinad Vidyashram School)



MORNING S(I)TAR

Join us for a morning of scintillating sitar music. Gaurav Mazumdar will entrance Chennai with his art at the Music Academy on New Year's Eve. We are very fortunate to have this private preview, and an opportunity to probe into the mind of the artist.

Gaurav, a senior disciple of Pandit Ravi Shankar and an artist in his own right, is both a musician and a composer. He played recently at the Vatican for the Pope and world leaders; at the Royal Festival Hall in London, and at the Chicago Symphony Hall in the U.S. to celebrate the millennium. Music Today India has just released two of Gaurav's new albums.

So come... enjoy the music, and find out: What does it mean musically to be a disciple of Pandit Shankar? How is it different playing a classical piece vs. one's own composition? How do the western and eastern ear differ? How do western and eastern music differ?

**GITA CHANDRASEKARAN
ANN MORADIAN**

Guests are welcome.

Thanks to Meena Muthiah for hosting Gaurav's performance, and to Ann Moradian for sponsoring it.

DIWALI MELA

We thank all our Members, Board and Activity Chairpersons for the success of the Diwali Mela. The appreciation and support extended by our Members, guests and stall owners has been tremendous. Some of those who need special thanks for

Registration	:	Angelika Mandaiker, Kamala Muthiah, Kamala Prasad, Maureen Thadani
Stalls	:	Rani Chada, Rathi Nilakantan
Decoration & Puja	:	Lalitha Krishnan
Stage Arrangements	:	Gita Chandrasekaran Ann Moradian
Entertainment	:	Artists from Dakshinachitra Students of Sir Sivaswamy Vidyalaya Anjali Shah & friends Saroja Ramamrutham, Visalakshi Ramaswamy, Eira Doshi
Khazana	:	Aruna Vijaykumar, Gayatri Bewoor, Chandrika Chidambaram, Shyla Rau
Lucky Dip	:	Ingrid Briggs, Vidya Singh
Support group	:	Sushi Goklaney, Fazeela Nurdeen, Sharmila Ramji, Kyoko Kashima, Seema Sait, Naina Shah, Pat Alter
Announcements	:	Gita Chandrasekaran
Sponsors	:	A Cut Above Kamala Muthiah, Eira Doshi, Javanthi Prabhakaran

Please note change of address and telephone number of the following members:

- 1) Pat Alter
12 (Old No.1) Turnbolls Road Extension
Chennai 600 035
Ph: 811 2000

 - 2) Brahada Kameshwaran
Ph: 811 4198

 - 3) Lakshmi Padmanabhan
Ph: 811 0334

 - 4) Mridula Narasimhan (Temporary change for 12 to 15 months)
14, Crescent Street
Off Arch Bishop Mathias Avenue
R.A. Puram
Chennai 600 028
Ph: 431 4046
-



CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- 1) Nanditha Krishna of C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, Chennai on being awarded the **INDIRA GANDHI PARIYAVARAN PURASKAR** for significant work in the field of Environment.

- 2) Sarah Chanda on the marriage of her daughter, Savithri Sarah to Kurien.

IWA'S TRIP TO HAMPI

The itinerary sent to all members of this expedition clearly indicated that we would be in for a lot of travelling, and it was not wrong. Afterwards, we worked out that we had spent 43 hours in actual train or bus travel during this six day visit. But it was well worth every mile.

Our stay at Bangalore was facilitated both ways by the generous offer of rest house facilities from the TI Cycles. Food, a shower and a base made our stay in Bangalore most pleasurable. The overnight train to Hospet was fun, starting with several games of Rummy and social chat with a group of fellow travellers, a group of plastic surgeons going to a conference in Hospet. So, before we knew it, we had reached our destination. Our hotel in Hospet was very comfortable and they arranged an excellent guide for us, Ragou, who turned up trumps and thoroughly enjoyed us as we did him during the following days.

Our first site, Hampi was vast. It is a huge site, scenically beautiful, surrounded by giant granitic boulders, with both palaces and temples, all products of the Vijayanagar Kingdom in the 14th and 15th centuries. They were a bastion against the Mohammedan invasion of the time, and the proliferation of temples by that dynasty was an attempt to ensure that Hinduism maintained a high profile as a defence against the influx of Moslem ideas in the north.

Most memorable for me were the giant Ganesh statue, the Queen's Bath House, the Vitthala Temple with its drumming pillars, the famous chariot, also at this temple, and the King's elephant stables, which were in tact. At the latter site we watched preparations for the upcoming Hampi festival 'Sound and Light Show' designed to re-enact the history of Hampi. The sacking of the Vijayanagar empire and capital burnt the wooden palaces to the ground leaving little above foundation level of the extensive palaces of these relatively peaceful kings who favoured the fine arts and civil engineering works. We had a wonderful walk by the river in Hampi where a few of us indulged ourselves

in a sunset coracle ride on the river, which was great fun. This Hampi area could easily absorb the visitor for atleast 6 days, but we had to move on up to Badami by bus.

Our first stop was at Aihole, the cradle of Hindu Temple Architecture. Here we saw the first constructed Hindu temple, the Lakkhan Temple dating back to the 5th century. There were about seven other temples at this site including the oval or oblong Durga temple, all dating from different periods of the Chalukya Empire. The Archaeological Department had to evict residents from these temples in order to establish them as monuments. They were occupied until as recently as the early 1970s. From here we moved on to Pattadakal to view another nine temples from this Kingdom, all very different in architecture and decoration. You can imagine, that yours truly was feeling a bit templed out by this time, but the failing was in me, not in them. I lacked staying power.

Badami brought us to the famous cave temples. Four temples dating from the 5th to the 8th centuries are represented here all carved out of the solid rock. We climbed the many steps up the hill to the last, the Jain Temple, and were also rewarded with a wonderful view over Boothanada lake which is overlooked by the fort of the Chalukya Kings. At this point, I spotted a lake motor boat and we all agreed in this to see the shore temple at the end of the lake, and the Badami museum. This boat ride was a delightful diversion.

All too soon, it was time to return to base and begin the return trip. We stopped off in Ilkal for a very traditional Kannadiga lunch in wonderful traditional surroundings thali style. Here many of our group purchased special sarrees, but our serious sightseeing was over. We only had eyes for the wonderful rural scenery along the road, and the granite towers of Hampi soon welcomed us back for our last night on the train back to Bangalore and thus on to Madras.

There was much good feeling among the group members, and it was nice to see so much consideration being given between the members of the group. Seeing some of our ladies, several with severe physical problems, climbing every single step to every single temple, was quite heart warming and earned a new respect from me. Thank you so much, Aruna and Visalakshi, for organising such a wonderful tour.

MEGAN UTLEY

We are planning another trip to Pondicherry, Tanjore and Chettinad around 20th February 2001. Details about the trip will be given in the next news letter. Those interested in joining should call Visalakshi Ramaswamy or Aruna Vijayakumar.

List of new members

- | | | | |
|----|---|------|---------|
| 1) | Kristina Stenstrom-Larsson
10, Murugappa Road
Kotturpuram, Chennai 600 085
Ph: 447 0658 | L-13 | Swedish |
| 2) | Galina Zakharova
74, Kasturi Ranga Road
Chennai 600 018
Ph: 499 0615 Off: 499 0050 | Z-2 | Russian |
| 3) | Raji Ramesh
D-5, Ceebros Garden
76, Kamaraj Salai
R.A. Puram, Chennai 600 028
Ph: 493 9640 / 493 9248 | R-30 | Indian |
| 4) | Janet Heaton
19/1A, Valliammai Achi Street
Kotturpuram, Chennai 600 085
Ph: 4475864 / 4472125 | H-11 | British |

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE BOARD

2000 - 2001

PRESIDENTS	: Javanthi Prabhakaran	(R) 6411579
	: Eira Doshi	(R) 4911126
VICE-PRESIDENTS	: Kamala Muthiah	(R) 6411141/6411142
	: Angelika Mandaiker	(R) 6461265
SECRETARIES	: Rani Chada	(R) 2344233/2324972
	: Rathi Nilakantan	(R) 8265250/0744/ (O) 8213691
TREASURERS	: Kamala Prasad	(R) 6262035/6283809
	: Maureen Thadani	(R) 4913194

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

ARTS & HANDICRAFTS	: Sharmila Ramji	(R) 4471200
	: Kyoko Kashima	(R) 8279020
BOOK DISCUSSION	: Vidya Singh	(R) 4338782/4359035
	: Ingrid Charlton-Briggs	(R) 8241878
COOKING SWAPSHOP	: Fazeela Nurdeen	(R) 6260674/6216561
	: Sushi Goklaney	(R) 4353714
CURRENT EVENTS	: Kusum Chadda	(R) 8254217/8233751
	: Pat Alter	(R) 8273040
HEALTH & ECOLOGY	: Naina Shah	(R) 4320706/4320564
	: Suzanne Plantener	(R) 4901613
HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS	: Visalakshi Ramaswamy	(R) 4939829
	: Aruṅa Vijaykumar	(R) 8271284/8272732
MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS	: Gita Chandrasekaran	(R) 4420235/4421035
	: Ann Moradian	(R) 4331582/4356243
PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION	: Lalitha Krishnan	(R) 4991853/4992341
	: Seema Sait	(R) 8242244/8261018